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WHEN SHEETS ARE ON SALE

Thrifty housewives who wait for midwinter white sales to stock up on sheets, pillowcases, and other household textiles, may wish to check over the points to have in mind when choosing. _____ (Name), _____ (Title) at _____ (Institution), says that a good sheet is firm in weave, practically free from sizing, is torn rather than cut from the bolt, and is hemmed with strong thread and short even stitches, about 12 to 14 to the inch.

In general, sheets with low thread count are coarse and sleazy. The more yarns to the inch in each direction, the firmer the weave. Satisfactory everyday muslin sheets have a finished thread count ranging from 70 to 80 in the warp and from about 61 to 70 in the filling.

Good durable sheets are made in many different weights. Medium weight sheets run 4 to 4½ ounces per square yard.

The most satisfactory length is from 99 to 108 inches. Widths run from 63 inches for a single bed, 72 inches for a twin or three-quarter bed, to 81 or 90 inches for a double bed. Bargain sheets are often smaller.

Sheets marked "firsts" should be practically free from weaving imperfections, such as uneven yarns, or thick or thin places. Seconds may contain some weaving defects and imperfect yarns, but if they do not weaken the sheet in any way, they may be worth buying and should be cheaper than firsts. "Pure finish" means that only the warp yarns have been sized to prevent breaking in the loom. Heavy sizing often covers up a loose, sleazy weave.

Tests made by the Bureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in which a set of sheets was laundered after every night of use in a hotel indicated that all were serviceable until laundered 197 times and some lasted through 252 launderings.

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